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2 **CLAIMS:**

3 What is claimed is:

1 1. A method for maintaining a centralized index of
2 documents stored in a plurality of independent document
3 repositories, the method comprising:
4 monitoring a networked computing environment for
5 publish events; and
6 responsive to detecting a publish event, relaying a
7 published document's meta data to a document index hub
8 which indexes and categorizes the document's meta data
9 and copying the published document to at least one remote
10 storage device.

1 2. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the meta
2 data comprises channel information detailing which of a
3 plurality of channels the document is to be copied to
4 where the channel represents at least one of the remote
5 storage devices.

1 3. The method as recited in claim 1, further
2 comprising:
3 mapping a document's meta data to a uniform meta
4 data format.

1 4. The method as recited in claim 1, further
2 comprising:
3 responsive to a determination that the document does
4 not have meta data, creating meta data and adding the
5 meta data to the document.

1 5. The method as recited in claim 4, wherein the
2 document is one of a video document, a graphic document,
3 and an audio document.

1 6. The method as recited in claim 4, further
2 comprising:
3 prompting a user to input appropriate meta data.

1 7. The method as recited in claim 1, further
2 comprising:
3 responsive to a determination that the document
4 belongs to a group of documents, adding a meta tag
5 indicating that the document belongs to a group of
6 documents and an indication of the identity of the other
7 documents within the group of documents.

1 8. A computer program product in a computer readable
2 media for use in a data processing system for maintaining
3 a centralized index of documents stored in a plurality of
4 independent document repositories, the computer program
5 product comprising:
6 first instructions for monitoring a networked
7 computing environment for publish events; and
8 second instructions, responsive to detecting a
9 publish event, for relaying a published document's meta
10 data to a document index hub which indexes and
11 categorizes the document's meta data and copying the
12 published document to at least one remote storage device.

1 9. The computer program product as recited in claim 8,
2 wherein the meta data comprises channel information

3 detailing which of a plurality of channels the document
4 is to be copied to where the channel represents at least
5 one of the remote storage devices.

1 10. The computer program product as recited in claim 8,
2 further comprising:

3 third instructions for mapping a document's meta
4 data to a uniform meta data format.

1 11. The computer program product as recited in claim 8,
2 further comprising:

3 third instructions, responsive to a determination
4 that the document does not have meta data, for creating
5 meta data and adding the meta data to the document.

1 12. The computer program product as recited in claim 11,
2 wherein the document is one of a video document, a
3 graphic document, and an audio document.

1 13. The computer program product as recited in claim 11,
2 further comprising:

3 fourth instructions for prompting a user to input
4 appropriate meta data.

1 14. The computer program product as recited in claim 8,
2 further comprising:

3 third instructions, responsive to a determination
4 that the document belongs to a group of documents, for
5 adding a meta tag indicating that the document belongs to
6 a group of documents and an indication of the identity of
7 the other documents within the group of documents.

1 15. A system for maintaining a centralized index of
2 documents stored in a plurality of independent document
3 repositories, the system comprising:
4 first means for monitoring a networked computing
5 environment for publish events; and
6 second means, responsive to detecting a publish
7 event, for relaying a published document's meta data to a
8 document index hub which indexes and categorizes the
9 document's meta data and copying the published document
10 to at least one remote storage device.

1 16. The system as recited in claim 15, wherein the meta
2 data comprises channel information detailing which of a
3 plurality of channels the document is to be copied to
4 where the channel represents at least one of the remote
5 storage devices.

1 17. The system as recited in claim 15, further
2 comprising:
3 third means for mapping a document's meta data to a
4 uniform meta data format.

1 18. The system as recited in claim 15, further
2 comprising:
3 third means, responsive to a determination that the
4 document does not have meta data, for creating meta data
5 and adding the meta data to the document.

1 19. The system as recited in claim 18, wherein the
2 document is one of a video document, a graphic document,
3 and an audio document.

1 20. The system as recited in claim 18, further
2 comprising:
3 fourth means for prompting a user to input
4 appropriate meta data.

1 21. The system as recited in claim 15, further
2 comprising:
3 third means, responsive to a determination that the
4 document belongs to a group of documents, for adding a
5 meta tag indicating that the document belongs to a group
6 of documents and an indication of the identity of the
7 other documents within the group of documents.

1 22. A method for maintaining a centralized index of
2 documents stored in a plurality of independent document
3 repositories, the method comprising:
4 receiving a document from a contributing data
5 processing system;
6 mapping meta data contained within the document to
7 standardized meta data in a standardized meta data
8 format; and
9 storing a copy of the document and the standardized
10 meta data in a document index hub.

1 23. The method as recited in claim 22, further
2 comprising:
3 responsive to a determination that meta data within
4 the document implies other standardized meta data, adding
5 the other standardized meta data to the document.

1 24. The method as recited in claim 22, further
2 comprising:
3 receiving a search request from a client data
4 processing system;
5 identifying matching documents having content and
6 standardized meta data matching search criteria specified
7 in the search request; and
8 sending a search result identifying the matching
9 documents to the client data processing system.

1 25. The method as recited in claim 24, further
2 comprising:
3 responsive to a determination that a document
4 matching the search criteria belongs to a group of
5 documents with similar content, formatting the search
6 result such that all documents belonging to the group are
7 identified within a single entry within the search
8 results.

1 26. The method as recited in claim 24, wherein the
2 search result includes hyperlinks to at least one of the
3 matching documents.

1 27. The method as recited in claim 24, wherein the
2 search request from the client data processing system is
3 embedded within a web page.

1 28. A computer program product in a computer readable
2 media for use in a data processing system for maintaining
3 a centralized index of documents stored in a plurality of

4 independent document repositories, the computer program
5 product comprising:

6 first instructions for receiving a document from a
7 contributing data processing system;

8 second instructions for mapping meta data contained
9 within the document to standardized meta data in a
10 standardized meta data format; and

11 third instructions for storing a copy of the
12 document and the standardized meta data in a document
13 index hub.

1 29. The computer program product as recited in claim 28,
2 further comprising:

3 fourth instructions, responsive to a determination
4 that meta data within the document implies other
5 standardized meta data, for adding the other standardized
6 meta data to the document.

1 30. The computer program product as recited in claim 28,
2 further comprising:

3 fourth instructions for receiving a search request
4 from a client data processing system;

5 fifth instructions for identifying matching
6 documents having content and standardized meta data
7 matching search criteria specified in the search request;
8 and

9 sixth instructions for sending a search result
10 identifying the matching documents to the client data
11 processing system.

1 31. The computer program product as recited in claim 30,
2 further comprising:

3 seventh instructions, responsive to a determination
4 that a document matching the search criteria belongs to a
5 group of documents with similar content, for formatting
6 the search result such that all documents belonging to
7 the group are identified within a single entry within the
8 search results.

1 32. The computer program product as recited in claim 30,
2 wherein the search result includes hyperlinks to at least
3 one of the matching documents.

1 33. The computer program product as recited in claim 30,
2 wherein the search request from the client data
3 processing system is embedded within a web page.

1 34. A system for maintaining a centralized index of
2 documents stored in a plurality of independent document
3 repositories, the system comprising:
4 first means for receiving a document from a
5 contributing data processing system;
6 second means for mapping meta data contained within
7 the document to standardized meta data in a standardized
8 meta data format; and
9 third means for storing a copy of the document and
10 the standardized meta data in a document index hub.

1 35. The system as recited in claim 34, further
2 comprising:

3 fourth means, responsive to a determination that
4 meta data within the document implies other standardized
5 meta data, for adding the other standardized meta data to
6 the document.

1 36. The system as recited in claim 34, further
2 comprising:

3 fourth means for receiving a search request from a
4 client data processing system;

5 fifth means for identifying matching documents
6 having content and standardized meta data matching search
7 criteria specified in the search request; and

8 sixth means for sending a search result identifying
9 the matching documents to the client data processing
10 system.

1 37. The system as recited in claim 36, further
2 comprising:

3 seventh means, responsive to a determination that a
4 document matching the search criteria belongs to a group
5 of documents with similar content, for formatting the
6 search result such that all documents belonging to the
7 group are identified within a single entry within the
8 search results.

1 38. The system as recited in claim 36, wherein the
2 search result includes hyperlinks to at least one of the
3 matching documents.

1 39. The system as recited in claim 36, wherein the
2 search request from the client data processing system is
3 embedded within a web page.

1 40. A document index hub, comprising:
2 a relay server which receives meta data and status
3 information for a document from a document publishing
4 data processor;
5 a meta mapper which translates the meta information
6 for the document to a standardized meta information
7 format; and
8 a document index which indexes and categorizes the
9 document's meta data.

1 41. The document index hub as recited in claim 40,
2 further comprising:
3 a search server which receives at least one of meta
4 data and keyword entries from a remote search client,
5 wherein the search server returns to a matching list of
6 document attributes to the search client.

1 42. The document index hub as recited in claim 41,
2 wherein the matching list of document attributes includes
3 links to the documents on a remote host.

1 43. The document index hub as recited in claim 41,
2 wherein the matching list of document attributes is
3 presented on one of Hypertext Markup Language format,
4 Extensible Markup Language format, and plain text format.

1 44. The document index hub as recited in claim 40,
2 wherein the relay server writes status information to a
3 log file.

1 45. The document index hub as recited in claim 44,
2 further comprising:
3 an error monitor which reads the log file and alerts
4 support staff when a problem is detected.

1 46. The document index hub as recited in claim 40,
2 wherein the meta mapper recognizes that meta information
3 within the document implies additional meta information
4 and inserts that additional meta information within the
5 document.

1 47. The document index hub as recited in claim 40,
2 wherein the meta mapper recognizes that the document is a
3 new member of a group of documents and updates meta
4 information in the other members of the group of
5 documents to indicate that the document belongs to the
6 group.

1 48. A document publication monitoring system,
2 comprising:
3 a stager;
4 a deployer;
5 a relayer; and
6 at least one channel; wherein
7 the stager translates channel information provided
8 in the meta data of a published document to remote

9 computer names and queues a file containing document
10 transfer instructions to the deployer;
11 the deployer performs file transfer instructions
12 received from the stager and responsive to transfer fail,
13 retries to transfer at specified time intervals; and
14 the relayer forwards meta data about the published
15 document to an index hub to be cataloged; and
16 the relayer forwards meta data about the document to
17 the an index hub.

1 49. The document publication monitoring system as
2 recited in claim 48, wherein the specified time intervals
3 are determined by one of doubling a time interval to
4 determine a successive time interval and using a
5 Fibonacci sequence to calculate successive time
6 intervals.

1 50. The document publication monitoring system as
2 recited in claim 48, further comprising a user interface
3 wherein the user interface prompts a user to identify
4 whether a document belongs to a group of documents and,
5 responsive to a determination that the document belongs
6 to a group of documents, collects information from the
7 user to identify the other documents within the group.